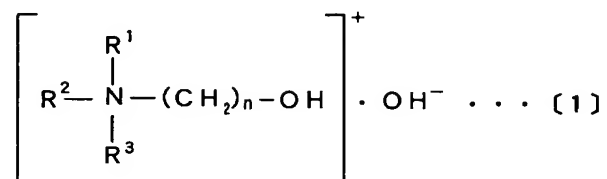


ABSTRACT

The quaternary ammonium compound described by general formula 1 below



(wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different hydrocarbon radicals with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and n is an integer between 1 and 10) is used as a metal corrosion inhibitor. With this metal corrosion inhibitor, it is possible even with the addition of small quantities to adequately prevent corrosion of metal in a steam generating unit or petroleum refining or petrochemical process unit.

Moreover, (β -hydroxyethyl)trimethylammonium hydroxide is used as a hydrogen chloride formation inhibitor for a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit. With this hydrogen chloride formation inhibitor, it is possible to prevent the formation of hydrogen chloride itself in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit without having any adverse effect on the catalyst.